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Independence and Peace for the Vietnamese People!

YANKEE GO HOME!

VIETNAM COURIER

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SOUTH VIETNAM

Operation *Cedar Falls* foiled :

- **2,500 G.I.'s put out of action — 149 armoured cars and military vehicles destroyed or damaged — 28 aircraft downed or damaged.**
- **Phu Loi airfield (Thu Dau Mot) mortar shelled: 20 helicopters destroyed or damaged, 165 G.I.'s killed or wounded.**

NORTH VIETNAM

- **Up to Feb. 2, 1,664 U.S. aircraft were downed**
- **Everywhere, agricultural co-operatives do their best to complete rice transplanting: Up to Jan. 25, transplanting work was 100% done in Cao Bang and Vinh Linh (hard hit by U.S. aircraft) and 70, 80% in Ha Tinh, Nghe An, Lang Son, Son La, Yen Bai, etc...**
- **Factory and office workers vie with one another to fulfil the 1967 plan.**

OUR FIRM STAND :

INDEPENDENCE AND PEACE

Commentary of **Nhan Dan** *paper, Jan. 29, 1967*

RECENTLY, D. R. V. Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh answered questions put by journalist W. Burchett on the latest as well as coming developments of the war in Vietnam, on the fallacious plea of the U.S. ruling circles that they had attacked military targets only, not civilian targets, and on the U.S. statement about the necessity of "direct talks" or "contacts" between the U.S. and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

In his answers, Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh clearly pointed out the great successes and inevitable victory of our people, and laid bare the crime of aggression of the U.S. imperialists, the intensification and expansion of their aggressive war, and their crafty words and obdurate attitude.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh threw a strong light on our Government's just stand and correct attitude which is enjoying the warm sympathy and support of the world's people. He also stressed our people's determination to fight till complete victory to defend the North and liberate the South with a view to reunifying the country by peaceful means thus making our contribution to the safeguarding of peace in South-East Asia and the world.

The Foreign Minister's statements is bound to have a powerful echo for it truthfully reflects the present reality in Vietnam, upholds the banner of independence and peace of our Government and people, meets the demands of the situation and the aspirations of all people of good will and conscience in the world, including the majority of the American people who are energetically demanding that their government stop immediately and unconditionally its bombing raids on the D.R.V. and end all its war of aggression against Vietnam so that the Vietnamese people can settle themselves their internal affairs.

(Continued page 2)

FOREIGN OPINION

BASIC FAILURE OF U.S. BOMBING POLICY AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM

WORLD attention has been focused on U.S. failures in its air war against the D. R. V. We publish below a few excerpts from reports by Western correspondents following their visits to the D.R.V. —*Ed.*

BOMB AFTER BOMB, THE AMERICANS ARE BUILDING THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S UNITY

To the American challenge, the Vietnamese have given a twofold reply : on the war front, and on the production front. In the latter field, they do not hid their difficulties, and I am inclined to believe that these are greater than what they announce, in industry especially... However, to tide over transport difficulties, the Vietnamese seem to have succeeded to a certain extent in keeping production going where the people are — those living in rural areas and those evacuated from the cities. It seems that the maximum autonomy has been granted the provinces, in all fields. The economy is already a guerilla one, against which the blows of the adversary are all the more ineffective as the country has remained essentially rural.

(Continued page 7)

SOUTH VIETNAM

SAIGON PUPPET REGIME ACUTE CRISIS

ON January 27 the Thieu-Ky clique officially announced the dismissal of Nguyen Huu Co from his office as "Defence Secretary" in the Saigon administration. Immediately Ky proceeded to a government reshuffle and operated some changes in the command of the puppet army. This was the second Cabinet shake-up and the second purge in the Command of the native mercenary troops within no more than two months and ten days.

The removal of Co was not so simple a job. Since January 25, Saigon had witnessed moments of tension inherent in any of the many coups d'état and counter-coups plaguing the puppet regime in South Vietnam. Tan San Nhut airbase and some units of its armed forces were on the alert. According to western sources, at least from thirty to forty officers of the Defence Ministry and the 5th and 7th divisions

(Continued page 6)

IF THE U.S. REFUSES TO LISTEN TO REASON, IT WILL FURTHER UNMASK ITSELF AS AN OBDURATE AGGRESSOR

D.R.V. Foreign Minister answers interview by journalist WILFRED BURCHETT

Question : ***Mr. Minister, what in your view are the most significant recent developments in the Vietnam war and what are the prospects for the immediate future?***

Answer : The U.S. imperialists are waging the most barbarous war of aggression against our country, threatening more and more seriously peace in South-East Asia and the world. But they have sustained heavy defeats in South and in North Vietnam. The people of South Vietnam, fighting with great heroism, have foiled all their military plans in spite of the commitment of over one million U.S. puppet and satellite troops. The people of North Vietnam have not been and will never be cowed by the barbarous bombing raids of the U.S. imperialists and have dealt them well-deserved counterblows.

The whole Vietnamese people are resolutely fighting against the U.S. aggressors to defend their sacred national rights and fulfil their duty to the peoples of the friendly countries now struggling for their independence and freedom. The 4-point stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of

(Continued page 6)

Our Firm Stand...

(Continued from page 1)

I — THE U.S. SUFFERS HEAVY DEFEATS, WE WIN GREAT VICTORIES

ON the present situation of the war in Vietnam, Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh said: "The U.S. imperialists are waging the most barbarous war of aggression against our country, threatening more and more seriously peace in South-East Asia and the world. But they have sustained heavy defeats in South and North Vietnam. The people of South Vietnam, fighting with great heroism have foiled all their military plans in spite of the commitment of over one million U.S. puppet and satellite troops. The people of North Vietnamhave not been and will never be cowed by the barbarous bombing raids of the U.S imperialists, and have dealt them well-deserved counter blows".

Reality on the battlefields in both zones of Vietnam has eloquently substantiated this statement.

In 1965 and 1966, by overcoming untold difficulties and hardships and giving full play to their revolutionary heroism and determination to fight and to win, the armed forces and people of our country performed brilliant feats of arms, thus glorifying their Fatherland and greatly inspiring their friends in all the five continents.

In 1965, the South Vietnam Liberation Army and people wiped out and disintegrated nearly 167,500 enemy troops including 19,200 U.S. aggressors. In 1966, they put out of action nearly 370,000 enemy troops among them 108,000 American and l nearly 10,000 satellite troops. Compared with 1965, U.S. casualties in 1966 increased five times, the number of U.S. combat units totally put out of action more than six times, that of U.S. aircraft shot down or destroyed on the ground one and a half times that of military vehicles of various kinds destroyed or damaged three times, etc.

Since the beginning of this year, the South Vietnam Liberation armed forces and people have been winning great victories.

The U.S. aggressors and puppets also suffered heavy setbacks on the political and economic fronts. The movement against U.S. aggression and the puppet administration is seething in the rural and urban areas still under U.S.-puppet control. The contradictions between the South Vietnamese people on the one hand and the U.S. aggressors and their puppets on the other, and the contradictions among various factions in the puppet army and administration, are aggravating with every passing day. The U.S. "pacifications" program — the "second front" on which the U.S. and quislings pinned much hope in 1966 — failed bitterly.

In less than two years of test of strength with the U.S. expeditionary troops, the South Vietnam armed forces and people have shown an unshakable revolutionary spirit, iron determination to fight, high combat skill, and great technical and tactical capacity. The longer they fight, the stronger they become and the more successes they achieve.

Parallel with the brilliant victories won by our armed forces and people in the South in all fields, our armed forces and people in the North won great victories in resisting the U.S. air war of destruction in the past two years.

This air war against North Vietnam is part and parcel of the U.S. aggressive war in South Vietnam. It is aimed at extricating the U.S. from its losing situation in the South, prop up the morale of the puppet army and administration, hindering the assistance of the North to the South, and sabotage the Northern people's peaceful labour.

By recklessly and cynically bombing the D. R. V., an independent and sovereign state, the American imperialists have committed a crime of aggression. By "escalating" one rung after another, attacking one populous area after another, bombing schools, hospitals, churches and pagodas one after another, killing many towns and cities such as Ho Xa, Dong Hoi, Vinh, Thanh Hoa, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, Thai Nguyen, Viet Tri, Thai Nguyen, etc, by repeatedly bombing Hanoi, capital of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, which was the most serious "escalation" step—the U.S. imperialists have been accumulating mountain-high heaps of crimes. All this is a clear and undeniable proof of their attacks on "civilian targets.

Prompted by their determination to defend socialist North and boiling with hatred for the U.S. aggressors, our armed forces and people have blown to pieces—with all weapons in hands, including infantry weapons—1,663 modern U.S. aircraft, and captured many American air pirates.

The U.S. aggressors hope, with their bombing of North Vietnam, to directly destroy economy and national defence and shake its morale. However, in the very struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation, the economic and defence potentials of North Vietnam have kept on developing, and the revolutionary tide in the South has risen to an unprecedented height.

So, in nearly two years, particularly in 1966, the armed forces and people throughout our country have won very great victories in all fields. Our position has become steadier, and our strength greater. These victories have created a solid basis for our armed forces and people in the whole country to march forward to new, greater victories. The struggle put up by our 31 million people will certainly be victorious.

II — JUSTICE AND INJUSTICE

BY intensifying their aggressive war in South Vietnam and continuously "escalating" their war of destruction in the North, the U.S. imperialists have been waging the most barbarous colonialist war in history against a people who cherish independence freedom and peace. In an attempt to hide their extremely odious nature, the ruling clique of the United States have unceasingly repeated their "peaceful negotiations" double talk.

Replying to journalist Wilfred Burchett, Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh said:

"The U.S. imperialists talk of "peace negotiations", but they still show great obduracy, President Johnson has recently stated with impudence that he will go on intensifying and expanding the war of aggression in an attempt to cling to the South and to prolong the partition of Vietnam".

As everybody knows, in his message to the U.S. Congress on January 10, 1967, Johnson clearly stated his intention to continue intensifying and widening his aggressive war in Vietnam. The U.S. budget for 1967-1968 is also a budget for war intensification.

The U.S. imperialists continue sending U.S. expeditionary troops to South Vietnam, escalating the war in North Vietnam, insolently and shamelessly demanding that North Vietnam accept his terms for an eventual halt to U.S. bombing of the D.R.V. All these facts clearly show the utterly obdurate character of the U.S. imperialists.

Large numbers of Americans, many intellectual and religious circles, many politicians and other people in the world, many statesmen, and the press in many countries, have exposed the discrepancy between the words and deeds of the U.S. government, and condemned the odious and unjust aggressive war being waged by the U.S. imperialists in Vietnam.

In the world, the movement against the U.S. aggressive war in Vietnam has become a mass movement of an unprecedented size and momentum involving the socialist, nationalist, democratic and religious forces, freedom and justice-loving people, and many statesmen. From all over Asia, Africa, America Europe and Oceania, has been resounding the demand that the U.S. stop definitively and unconditionally its bombing of North Vietnam, withdraw U.S. and satellite troops from South Vietnam, recognize the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs. Never before have the U.S. imperialists been so isolated as they are now in the Vietnam problem.

To oppose the U.S. imperialists' aggression and support the just struggle of the Vietnamese people are two inseperable aspects of the struggle of the world's people on the Vietnam problem.

The fraternal socialist countries, the nationalist countries, the democratic and peace loving forces, and honest people all over the world wholeheartedly support the Vietnamese people, because our struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation is sacred for our fundamental national rights, for peace in South East Asia and in the world, for freedom and justice, for the liberation of the peoples, and for progress of mankind.

The whole world supports us *because our government and people have been consistently holding aloft the banner of independence and peace.*

Our government has always scrupulously implemented the Geneva Agreements of 1954 on Vietnam, and demanded that the U.S. and other countries concerned do the same. Since the U.S. imperialists started violating seriously the Geneva Agreements and jumped straight into South Vietnam, our government has unceasingly demanded that the U.S. strictly respect the Geneva Agreements and withdraw American troops from South Vietnam.

Since early 1965 the U.S. have been sending masses of U.S. expeditionary troops to South V.N., intensifying and widening their aggressive war there, and at the same time, brazenly carrying out an air war of destruction against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Our government has served many stern warnings on the U.S. imperialists. On April 8, 1965, our government made public its four-point stand.

The four points of the D.R.V. government are the basis for the most sensible political solution to the Vietnam problem, because it expresses in a concentrated and profound manner the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, fully conforms to the spirit of the five-point statement (March 22, 1965) of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation faithfully reflects the spirit of the basic provisions of the 1954 Geneva Agreements, and correctly lays down the direction and measures for settling the Vietnam problem in complete accordance with the interest of peace in Southeast Asia and in the world.

That is why the four points of the D.R.V. Government have been warmly approved and supported by the governments of many countries, many statesmen, many international bodies and organizations, and large numbers of people in the United States and in the world.

In face of the frenzied intensification and expansion of the aggressive war in Vietnam by the U.S. imperialists, and of the escalation of their war of destruction in North Vietnam, on January 24, 1966, in his letter to the heads of state of many countries, President Ho Chi Minh clearly pointed out:

"Having gone through over twenty years of war, the Vietnamese desire peace more eagerly than any one else to build their life. But real peace can by no means be dissociated from genuine independence. So long as the U.S. army of aggression still remains on our soil, our people will resolutely fight against it. If the U.S. government really wants a peaceful settlement, it must accept the four-point proposal of the Government of the D.R.V., and prove this by actual deeds, it must end unconditionally and for good all bombing raids and other war acts against the D.R.V.

On July 17, 1966, in his appeal to the compatriots and fighters throughout Vietnam, President Ho Chi Minh again emphasized: "The Vietnamese people cherish peace, a genuine peace, a peace in independence and freedom, not a sham peace, not an 'American peace'."

Recently journalist Wilfred Burchett requested Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh to comment on the U.S. statement about the necessity of "direct dialogues" or "contacts" between the U.S. and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. On this question, Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh replied:

"The United States has made such statements but in its deeds, it has shown utmost obduracy and perfidy, and continues the "escalation", stepping up and expanding the aggressive war. *If it really wants talks, it must first halt unconditionally the bombing raids and all other acts of war against the D.R.V. It is only after the unconditional cessation of U.S. bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V. that there could be talks between the D.R.V. and the U.S.*"

The answer of the D.R.V. Foreign Minister has reiterated, in a clear-cut manner, the consistent stand of our Government and people and the correct attitude of our government and uphold our banner of independence and peace; this banner is winning the hearts and minds of thousands of millions of people of different complexions, political views, languages and religious beliefs in the world, for it is the banner of justice and truth.

In the U.S., the majority of the people, various intellectual and religious circles, many politicians and many newspapers are demanding that the U.S. government immediately and unconditionally put an end to the bombing of North Vietnam in order to seek a solution to the Vietnam issue. Many demonstrations have taken place in front of the White House and Johnson's ranch in Texas with the slogan "Stop bombing North Vietnam!" Recently, U.S. Senator Ernest Gruening (Democrat, Alaska) said that since the expansion of U.S. military activities in Vietnam and the bombing of North Vietnam, the U.S. had become an aggressor.

For his part, Senator Wayne Morse (Democrat, Oregon), pointed out that "continued escalation will lead us into a massive Asian war that we can never win". Senator Mark Hatfield (Republican, Oregon) challenged, "the bombing policy has not proved successful so I ask the question why we continue it?"

The New York Times last December 28 also pointed out: "that bombing has become the major impediment to negotiations and does vast political damage to the United States both in allied countries and in the non-aligned world".

World public opinion has without cease energetically condemned U.S. bombing of the D.R.V. and savage raids on civilian targets, and resolutely demanded that the U.S. immediately, definitively and unconditionnally end its bombing of the D.R.V.

This demand has grown ever stronger since the U.S. imperialists repeatedly attacked many populous areas inside and outside Hanoi — the D.R.V.'s capital — and continued their "escalation" after Christmas and New Year's Day. Recently, Cambodian Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the President of the United Arab Republic, the President of the Algerian Revolutionary Council, France's President Charles de Gaulle, and Denmark's Prime Minister Jens Otto Krag, also demanded an end to the bombing of the D.R.V. by the U.S. In a letter dated Dec. 30, 1966 to U.S. delegate at the U.N., Arthur Goldberg, U.N. Secretary General U. Thant also pointed that the end of the bombing of North Vietnam was of first and foremost importance.

However, the U.S. has disregarded all these just demands of public opinion at home and in the world, and continued intensifying its "escalation" in North Vietnam and stepping up and expanding its aggression in the South. All this proves that despite their heavy defeats the U.S. imperialists have not given up their sinister design of enslaving our people and partitioning our country, and that instead they have displayed increasingly obvious signs of war mania.

Now, should the U.S. imperialists persist in turning a deaf ear to reason, they will, as Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh has said, further expose themselves as diehard aggressors and lay bare their bellicose nature; and they will certainly fail.

III — OUR PEOPLE ARE RESOLVED TO STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND PEACE

BEING a victim of aggression, one must resist aggression, and as long as aggression continues, one must continue resisting aggression. Such is the sacred duty of all oppressed nations, of all people victims of aggression. The peoples of many countries, including the American people, have behaved the same way when faced with foreign aggression.

Continuing and promoting our nation's traditions of struggle against foreign invasion, our people will never submit to the U.S. aggressors. In the past, under most difficult conditions, our people defeatrd the Japanese fascists and the French colonialists. At present, confidence at home and abroad are far more favourable to our people's struggle: 31 million of our compatriots are united as one man, we have a correct line, invincible people's armed forces, and enjoy the sympathy and support of the fraternal socialist countries and our friends everywhere in the world.

Giving full play to our previous victories, our armed forces are ready as of one mind to overcome all difficulties and hardships and resolutely fulfil the nation's glorious historic mission: to defeat the U.S. aggressors.

Our people in the North are determined to devote heart and soul to production and to fighting; they are consolidating and strengthening socialist North in all fields so as to make it a solid prop for the liberation struggle of their compatriots in the South. Our people in the North are resolved to carry through the noble task of serving as the great rear to the great frontline.

For their part, our heroic and indomitable people in the South who have been winning greater and greater victories and getting ever stronger in the process of the fighting, have performed glorious feats of arms and proved worthy of the title "the Brass Wall of the Fatherland".

IN BEN SUC AND OTHER AREAS

U.S. AND PUPPET TROOPS USE TOXIC GAS AND BARBAROUS LETHAL WEAPONS

AFTER having razed Ben Suc township and other villages of Thu Dau Mot and forcibly grouped 8,000 civilians into disguised detention camps, and after having used incendiary bombs to burn a vast area in that same province in their Operation *Cedar Falls*, G.I.'s used toxic gas to massacre civilians or force them out of shelters. According to A.P. reports on Jan. 19 and 20, during an operation near Ho Bo, 40km northwest of Saigon, they pumped toxic gas into shelters where people were taking refuge. The same agency disclosed that chemical units had been integrated into the American forces to carry out this task.

A few days later, on Jan. 25 according to *UPI*, the U.S. troops involved in Operation *Thayer II* sprayed toxic gas into a mountain cave in Northern Binh Dinh, 275 miles northeast of Saigon. *UPI* acknowledged that there were women and children in the cave, yet toxic gas had been used to drive them out of shelter so as to take them to concentration camps. The U.S. military spokesman, the same agency reported, announced that American troops had killed 30 persons during these operations.

In another area adjoining Binh Dinh and Phu Yen provinces 255 miles northeast of Saigon, during a "massive sweep", Pak Jung Hi mercenary troops arrested 16,000 inhabitants from 11 villages in the valley and many other villages on the coastal fringe. They killed 153 persons and drove the remainder into concentration camps. The victimized people, as confirmed by *Reuter*, were mostly women, children and old folks.

AP reported on Jan. 28 that B.52 planes had launched a "scorched earth" operation, burning a 18 sq.-mile area in Tay Ninh. *UPI* on Jan. 22 disclosed that more operations of the Ben Suc type were to be launched.

During the past period, American troops and mercenaries committed many bloody crimes south of the 17th parallel.

To make good their defeats in the past year, since early 1967, American, satellite and puppet troops have been stepping up attacks on civilians in the most ferocious manner. The biggest operations in recent years have been conducted. Operation *Cedar Falls* involved more than 30,000 troops from 21 U.S. companies and other supporting forces (in Operation *Five Arrows* early last year, 40,000 troops were mustered in the five main prongs). In the "sweep" conducted by South Korean mercenary troops on the boundary between Binh Dinh and Phu Yen provinces only 5 infantry battalions were fielded while as many as 8 artillery battalions paid a visit to the violent bombing missions against vast areas, on the other hand, the "scorched earth" tactics has been coupled with most brutal means, such as heavy pounders, incendiary bombs, toxic gas, etc.... on such large-scale as the burning to ashes of an area of over 5,000ha, the levelling of a whole township and nearby villages with bulldozers, and especially the use of a huge amount of toxic gaz by specialised units. *AP* reported. It is also not hard to notice that the evacuation of people has been carried out with the most brutal method to drive tens of thousands of persons into concentration camps at a go. However, much publicity has been given to the so called "revolutionary development programme", allegedly to win the people's hearts and minds, in fact to win over white-livered elements through material baits.

The aggressors have had to make these last-ditch efforts because they find it beyond their power to bring to people under their control although they have, over recent years, conducted in numerable raids. Such concentration method, however will only rouse the people to stronger hatred and stiffer resistance. How on earth can American troops regroup all people of the N.F.L. liberation zone? The people might be impounded in this place or that, but, as opponents of the American and puppet troops, they will remain and will continue their struggle even behind the barbed wire fences. The fact is that concentrating of a large number of women, children and old folks, has taken a heavy toll of the committed troops. On the other hand, the L.A.F. activities are going on unabated, and blow after blow is being administered to the enemy right in the U.S.-raided areas and other places, to maintain the initiative, and to defend and expand the liberated areas in various parts of the country.

400,000 G.I.'s; ten of thousands of satellite soldiers and 500,000 - odd puppet troops have failed to save the U.S. imperialists' setbacks in South Vietnam. Even if they sent 500,000 U.S. troops or more to South Vietnam; the U.S. imperialists could never shake our people's iron will and determination to resist them and for national salvation, nor avoid heavier defeats.

"When the South calls, the North responds, and when the North calls, the South springs forward. However numerous their tricks, the U.S. aggressors can never impair the rock-like bloc of solidarity and unity of 31 million Vietnamese people".*

Fighting for their fundamental national rights and the cause of peace, the Vietnamese people, drawing their force from their solidarity and from the glowing justice of their cause and with their growing position and strength, will certainly be victorious.

* Communique of the South Vietnam Armed Forces Command in early January 1967.

VOLUNTEERS FOR PEACE DELEGATION:

Mr. A.J. Muste talking to representatives of various organizations in Hanoi

"THE VIETNAMESE CANNOT BE BEATEN INTO SURRENDER OR SUBMISSION BY ANY FOREIGN POWER"

RECENTLY, a delegation of "Volunteers for Peace" of three leading churchmen paid a visit to the D.R.V.. It comprises:

— Abraham J. Muste, 82, Presbyterian Minister, Chairman of the "New York 5th Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee";

— Former Bishop Ambrose Reeves, 67, of the Anglican Church of Johannesburg, South Africa, where he had campaigned against racial laws; and

— Abraham Feinberg, 67, honorary Rabbi of the Holy Blossom Temple of Toronto, Ontario, founder of the Canadian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

During its stay in Vietnam, the delegation visited many places, met scores of witnesses, inspected damage caused by U.S. airplanes and collected first hand information on fighting and production of the Vietnamese people. The delegation had interviews with various circles in the D.R.V. and was received by President Ho Chi Minh and Premier Pham Van Dong.

Before leaving Hanoi, the delegation held a press conference to release a statement.

On U.S. civilian bombings, the statement wrote:

"... *We have seen the sections of Hanoi, a few blocks from the hotel in the center of the city in which we ourselves lived which were bombed on December 13 and 14 last. We are therefore frankly appalled that an attempt should ever have been made by Administration spokesman in Washington to deny or equivocate about the matter. Such trifling with simple facts is bound to make a government ridiculous in the eyes of its own people and of the world.*"

(Continued page 6)

AMERICAN PLANES CONTINUE BOMBING D.R.V. CITIES AND TOWNS

FOLLOWING the barbarous bombings of Thai Nguyen and Viet Tri cities, North Vietnam industrial centres, U.S. planes have recently attacked other cities and towns of the D.R.V.

On January 25, Thanh-Hoa provincial capital and Nam-Dinh city were bombed by night. The U.S. air pirates also attacked densely populated areas, factories, state organs, hospitals and schools, causing many civilian casualties and destroying many houses. The French cemetery was also hit, many tombs were damaged.

Strongly condemned by public opinion of the world and of the American people, Washington has been denying that it does not strike at civilian targets.

However, these savage bombings are further proofs that the populated areas and economic centres of the D.R.V. have become daily targets of U.S. planes.

But these encroachments upon the sovereignty of a nation, this gross violation of international law will certainly be duly punished.

ADMISSION BY AMERICAN NEWS AGENCIES

ACCORDING to *AP* of Jan. 21, the American intelligence services disclosed that aerial photos showed that American air strikes had caused significant damage to the civilians.

AP revealed that from photos taken over Yen Vien, north of Hanoi, "*about 50 civilian structures appeared to be destroyed*".

According to the same source, "*one set of photos is said to have shown destruction on or damage to 228 civilian structures* at Nam Dinh, a textile center raided 60 times.

NORTH VIETNAM

AFTER TWO YEARS OF U.S. ESCALATION

A Quang Binh woman peasant is planting rice seedlings. A not unusual sight in Vietnam where for centuries, even for tens of centuries, women peasants have been doing the same thing, with the same gestures, against the same background of green ricefields. But in this early 1967, planting rice seedlings in Quang Binh is by no means an ordinary thing. In Quang Binh province, the territory of Vietnam narrows down, like the waist of a bee: people live on a narrow stretch of land between the mountain and the sea, through which north-south communication lines run. And that's why U.S. aircraft have especially picked out this province for its air strikes, with a view to terrorising the population and cutting all communications. In 1966, 120,000 sorties were flown over Quang Binh, 12,000 houses were destroyed, together with 78 schools, 62 infirmaries and maternity homes, 5 hospitals, 68 water conservancy works, and 75 kilometres of dykes. The cities of Dong Hoi and Ba Don were razed to the ground. All roads and bridges were attacked, and the ferries on the rivers Gianh and Ron received about 10,000 bombs each. The Cann Ly dam was attacked 200 times. A large number of peasants were killed as they worked in the fields. Along the 120-kilometre coast of the province, Seventh-fleet units roamed night and day, pounding villages and sinking fishing boats.

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So, in this early 1967, planting rice seedlings in Quang Binh is a dangerous job, for at any moment, death may swoop down from the sky. Besides, it no longer means accomplishing the same age-old gesture: to seize the tuft of seedlings between the thumb and the forefinger, turning one's palm downward, then to bury their roots haphazardly into the mud. The Quang Binh peasants have adopted a new method: rice is now planted in straight rows so as to get the maximum amount of light and so that the teeth of a new-type rake can pass between the rows; the tuft of seedlings is seized between the forefinger and the middle finger, turning one's palm upward so as to work more quickly and with less fatigue. For two years now, ever since Quang Binh has been subjected to U.S. air strikes, this new method has been in use.

So, an old woman peasant of Quang Binh was planting rice the new way. A journalist asked her: "Why plant rice in straight rows"?

"They say this gives a higher output".

"Do you believe it?"

"We'll see at the harvest. For the time being, I am not sure".

"Then why do it?"

"It's to show the American gangsters who are up there in their planes that our hands are not trembling".

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THE old woman's answer reflects the state of mind of the North Vietnamese population in this early 1967, after two years of bombing. Nobody's hands are trembling, neither the gunner on the lookout, nor the peasant tilling his field, nor the worker repairing a bridge, nor the driver on his lorry. Try as the American airmen may to submerge the country under a deluge of bombs and rockets and cannon shells, they find at every altitude a weapon which hits them: missiles, A.A. guns, infantry weapons. Whether flying over the D.R.V., the same airmen can see with their own eyes that the country is building apace: new roads are traced, new channels dug, new dykes and dams built. The formerly tortuous paddy dykes have been replaced by straight ones. In short, in two years, the face of the country has completely changed. Meanwhile, as admitted by the Pentagon men themselves, the help extended by the North Vietnamese people to their Southern brothers is continued in proportion to the intensification of American war efforts.

It's not easy to make an old peasant woman change her method of work, which she has practised for scores of years. But this has been done. It's not easy to disperse three million school and college students in a multitude of classes camouflaged under the green vegetation of villages. But this has been done. It's not easy to ensure supplies for a growing population, while a large number of country youth have been mobilized for defence work. But this has been done. It's not easy to set up workshops and small factories everywhere while power stations and communication lines are continually bombed. This, too, has been done.

And to crown it all, we continue to hold out and win. The supreme defeat for the American colossus is that the D.R.V., this small country which according to the Washington propagandists is starving and about to collapse, is hitting back vigorously. The dream of the men in Washington is to force the D.R.V. to surrender and to deal a mortal blow to her socialist building. But instead of putting their hands up, the North Vietnamese people have pointed guns skyward, and their socialist building continues. Just talk to any Vietnamese: you'll find that he is seized neither with fear nor anguish about the future. Beside bomb craters, peasants will tell you about their co-operative's plans; in peasant cottages where classes are held, university professors will discuss long-range scientific research projects; go into the mountains, you will find geologists surveying the ground and making plans for mines that will start operating twenty years from now. Everyone works, as if victory is already there.

To plant rice, operate a ferry, drive a lorry under bombings, to teach in very difficult material conditions, to conduct scientific research with very scanty means — all this, one may simply say, is heroic. This is done by millions of people, every day, with the matter-of-factness of workers accomplishing their daily jobs. It has become a second nature, a normal part of life. When someone says he can continue to live like this ten or twenty more years, it's not vain boasting. He is merely stating the truth concerning an entire people who refuse to return to slavery, and who are ready to endure every hardship, every sacrifice.

In Hanoi, Tet (Lunar New Year — February 9 this year-Ed.) will be celebrated in austerity, but gaily. American newspapers told us that Lyndon B. Johnson was sullen all through the Christmas and New Year sumptuous celebrations. After two years of air strikes against North Vietnam, he was disillusioned. The American air force had not brought about decisive results as the Pentagon had hoped, and the whole U.S. strategy had to be worked out anew. Johnson had wanted to subdue the Vietnamese people within a very short time and put world public opinion before a fait accompli, but the war looked as though it was going to last indefinitely, while he had been unmasked as the worst international gangster and a liar to his own people. The longer the war lasts and the more it is intensified, the more severe the American losses and the deeper the Johnson administration sinks into shame and infamy.

Mr. Lyndon Baines Johnson, don't you ever hope to force the Vietnamese people to give way. If you really want to get out of your blind alley, you can do only one thing: respect at least the elementary norms of international life, put an unconditional end to bombings and all other war acts against the D.R.V., if you really want to give some consistency to your talk about peace. Otherwise, you will go down in history as the American president who has acted like a gangster, who has lied the most to the world and the American people. And as the one who has suffered the bitterest defeat.

HERE and THERE

via D.R.V.

New dykes, new canals

IN 1966, the State farms in North Vietnam contributed to the State proceeds 17.5 percent higher than expected by the budget, thus recording an increase of 76 per cent over 1965.

In 1967, the acreage of agricultural farms will expand by 10 percent, the value of agricultural products will increase 36.6 per cent and the volume of products supplied to the state, 25 percent compared with 1966.

COOPERATIVE farmers in the mountain districts of Thanh Hoa are engaging in a "Resist U.S. aggression for national salvation" vegetable growing movement, and have grown vegetables on over 1,000 hectares, five times the 1965 area. Formerly, the mountain people scarcely grew vegetable (which were brought from the delta or fetched in the forest). Today, with their own efforts, they are self-sufficient in vegetables all the year round. ★

II — OURS IS AN OFFENSIVE, STRONG AND WINNING STRATEGIC POSITION. THE ENEMY'S IS A DEFENSIVE, WEAK AND LOSING ONE

OUR direct confrontation with three strategic plans of the American aggressors and their henchmen over more than a year — plans which have been successively frustrated — has helped us to make a clearer appraisal of our and the enemy's position. We can unequivocally assert that **our strategic position is an offensive, strong and winning position whereas the enemy's is a defensive, weak and losing one.**

The extremely reactionary nature and the extremely unjust character of the policy pursued by the American imperialists in their war of aggression constitute the root cause of all their blunders and failures in the military and political fields, in tactics and technique, in ideology and morale. Moreover they have been dealing with a people possessed of an excellent revolutionary line and people's war line, long standing traditions of valiant resistance to foreign invasion, strong national unity and an unshakable determination to fight and die for their freedom rather than be enslaved. This has driven the U.S. aggressors and their valets into a strategical and tactical ideological moral impasse which grows more critical. Their defensive strategic stalemate has compelled them to act against their will.

1 — The Americans wanted to defeat us with the might of their air and naval forces which they boastfully described as the most up-to-date, the strongest in the world. But they also wanted to win through the agency of their puppets in order not to show their nature as neo-colonialists always do. By mid-1965, in face of the imminent collapse of the Saigon army and administration, they hurriedly threw masses of U.S. troops into the battle, disregarding the lesson of the French Expeditionary Force in Vietnam and their own experience in Korea where they had learned that committing their ground forces to the mainland of Asia is to grapple with sharks in the high seas.

2. The Americans thought that with the presence of U.S. forces, they could boost the morale of the puppet troops and use them for strategic purposes on the battlefield. Unfortunately, the more GI's came in, the sharper the contradictions between them and the Saigon army became, and the more extensive and quicker the latter's disintegration. According to the Western press, the number of deserters reached at least ten thousand per month.

3. The Americans thought that with a sizable expeditionary force and a huge war apparatus like theirs they could easily overwhelm our people and fight a blitz war to snatch a quick victory. The warmongers often trumpeted that the war was nearing its end and that the G.I.'s would soon be sent home, etc... But after their 1966-67 dry-season setback, Johnson, McNamara, Dean Rusk and Westmoreland spoke another language ringing with distress. The United States, they said, should display patience; faithful to the commitments by three American presidents, it will not abandon the "Republic of Vietnam" many difficulties still lie ahead, and so on.

4. The policy of the American aggressors was to defeat us on two fronts by means of a military offensive and "pacification" work. But chiefly they wanted to win a final military victory in the 1965-1966 dry season, or at least a

A YEAR OF GRIM TRIAL OF STRENGTH, A YEAR OF SPLENDID VICTORIES

BY THE SOUTH VIETNAM L. A. F. COMMENTATOR

(Continued from last issue)

strong position which would help the implementation of the said policy. Their "great" counter-offensive plan was unhappily frustrated too soon and was too costly.

Unable to win on the military front, the Americans shifted hastily to the other front — "pacification" work. "Pacifying" this heroic land, however, was no easy job for them! Besides, once they had lost militarily, what could they achieve on the "pacification" plane? For the prerequisites of a successful "pacification" lay in a military victory, and after a military defeat any hope on this score was indeed a pitiful illusion.

5. The Americans did their best to stabilize the political situation, settle the internal strife among their valets, repress the opposition by force of arms, stage the election farce in Saigon and convene the Manila Conference — in fact a "war council" used by Johnson as a forum to deceive the American and world peoples. In spite of all the pronouncements uttered by the U.S. president, the bloody quarrel in Tactical Zone I, the repression of Buddhists in Saigon and Hue, the assassination of Tran Van Van, the dismissal of General Dang Van Quang from the 4th Tactical Zone Command, and the defeat of Johnson's Democratic party in the last November elections clearly spelt out the increasing deterioration of the American aggressors' political situation which was beset with so many irreconcilable contradictions. In addition, more and more political and armed actions by the masses of the people in the South Vietnamese urban centres had broken out with much bitterness. The political struggles at Dalat, Hue, Saigon and other cities, just as the recent blows at Long Binh, Tan Son Nhat, Vung Tau, Chu Lai, Da Nang, Binh Duong, Can Tho, etc..., aggravated the crisis among the aggressors and accelerated their ultimate failure.

Thus, things evolved against the will of the Americans. They wanted to carry out aggression after a neo-colonialist pattern but had to bring in expeditionary troops. They wanted to fight a blitz war, but had to sustain a protracted one; they carried the blows for the puppet army but in practice worked for their deterioration. They hoped for a political stabilization while their agents proved to be incapable, corrupt and greedy creatures involved in endless internal wrangles. They who reckoned with the annihilation of our regular forces, suffered heavy casualties at hands. An obstacle to their "rural pacification" plan was that guerilla warfare grew powerfully simultaneously with the mass movement in towns and cities which kept on developing. Furthermore, it was the intention of the aggressors to wreck North Vietnam and thus damage our big rear. But North Vietnam remained unruffled, more united, and stronger than ever, and wholeheartedly assisted South Vietnam. Never have North and South Vietnam been so close to each other as at present.

And now what is the strategic position of the American imperialists and their lackeys? It may be summarily said that they find themselves in a blind alley:

1. They are at a loss how to cut down U.S. casualties and slow down the tempo of the Saigon army's desintegration.

2. They do not know how many more U.S. expeditionary troops will do (with 200,000, 300,000 and even with 400,000 they have got trounced) and what will result from the introduction of more forces in the political, economic and military fields.

3. Unable to cope with the South Vietnam Liberation armed forces and people while they have over one million men under their command, they do not know how to fight off — let alone wipe out — the LAF and subdue the Vietnamese people.

4. They do not know how to turn the puppet administration notoriously greedy, thievish, corrupt and full of lust of power and privileges, and the puppet army now desintegrated to the point of virtual paralysis, into an "effectual" tool.

5. They do not know how to bomb North Vietnam into reducing — let alone giving up or ending — its aid to its kith and kin in South Vietnam.

6. They do not know how to make their unsavoury "will for peace" trick palatable to everyone, etc.

We won in three successive strategic bouts by foiling the Staley plan, the McNamara plan and the plan for "escalating" the war to North Vietnam, thereby bringing the U.S. strategy of "special warfare" to total bankruptcy. Since late 1965 we have won two other contests with the frustration of the U.S. 1965-1966 dry-season counter-offensive and the monsoon defensive plan. In the third and fiercer test of strength now going on, we have got the upper hand in the first round. The aggressors may recklessly challenge us for a fourth and a fifth duel in future. Fighting for a just cause, guided by a clear-cut strategic line and enjoying the superiority of people's war, determined as they are to achieve independence, freedom and national reunification, our army and people in South Vietnam will surely thwart all the enemy's perfidious schemes.

Our military and political successes in 1966 were of paramount significance. They have not only demonstrated that we have foiled the first stage of the U.S. "limited war", waged by some 400,000 American troops, struck hard at the will of aggression of the U.S. and driven it into confusion and perplexity. Their successes have also created material and moral conditions for still greater victories at the later stage of the war. **They have consolidated and enhanced the confidence of the armed forces and people throughout our country, the confidence of our friends and all men of conscience the world over. They have exposed the wickedness and cowardice of the American aggressors as well as the weakness of the "clay-footed colosses".**

A unit of the South Vietnam Liberation Army

THE MORE U.S. TROOPS BROUGHT TO SOUTH VIETNAM, THE HEAVIER THEIR LOSSES

FROM 1961 TO 1966, **130,597** G.I.'s WERE WIPED OUT IN SOUTH VIETNAM

THE following figures released by *Liberation Press Agency* show a sharp increase in American casualties in South Vietnam, which is proportionate to the number of U.S. troops brought in.

Year	U.S. troop strength	U.S.-puppet casualties	U.S. casualties	U. S. casualty total compared with 1961
1961	1,364	49,329	8	
1962	9,865	85,358	256	32 times
1963	16,500	133,296	993	124 times
1964	23,000	208,263	2,140	267 times
1965	167,500	227,500	19,200	2,400 times
1966	nearly 400,000	370,000	108,000	more than 4 times the total of U.S. casualties in the 1961 - 1965 period.

All told, in 6 years (from 1961 to 1966) the South Vietnam Liberation armed forces and people inflicted 130,597 casualties on the U.S. aggressors.

In the central part of Central Vietnam where the "crack" units of the U.S., such as the marine divisions 1 and 3, the 1st air mobile cavalry division, the 4th infantry division, the 101st airborne brigade, and part of the 173rd airborne brigade, are stationed, the L.A.F. wiped out from January to November 1966 over 53,000 Yanks, that is nearly half the total of U.S. casualties in South Vietnam, in this period.

At the beginning of the 1966-1967 dry-season, the armed forces and people in the Western High Plateaux alone wiped out over 3,200 enemy troops including 1,900 Yanks.

III. BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR 1967

HOW will the situation evolve? Disposing more than one million U.S., puppet and satellite troops, and a huge volume of war material, what will the American undertake in 1967?

Of course they still are strong and obdurate, they cannot resign themselves to defeat but try to cling to South Vietnam. They and their lackeys will continue to try to achieve the strategic objectives they failed to attain in 1966. They will certainly play these trump-cards:

— Continuation of the military counter-offensive during the dry-season.

— Execution of the "pacification" plan on a wide scale.

The enemy will resort to all ferocious means to defeat us.

(To be continued)

If the U.S. refuses...

(Continued from page 1)

Vietnam is a stand of independence and peace; it is the expression of the fundamental principles and the main provisions of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam. It is the basis for the most correct political solution to the Vietnam problem, a basis which fully meets the deep aspirations of the Vietnamese people, and fully conforms to the spirit of the 5-point Statement of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, the only genuine representative of the people of South Vietnam.

The peoples of the world, including very large sections of the population of the U.S. itself, more and more strongly support our just stand and demand ever more firmly that the United States imperialists stop their war of aggression in Vietnam and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs.

The U.S. imperialists talk of "peace negotiations", but they still show great obduracy. President Johnson has recently stated with impudence that he will go on intensifying and expanding the war of aggression in an attempt to cling to the South and to prolong the partition of Vietnam.

But however perfidious the manœuvres of the U.S. imperialists may be, the Vietnamese people, united as one man and fearing neither hardships nor sacrifices, are determined to carry on their resistance war to the end to safeguard the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, and contribute to the maintenance of peace in South-East Asia and the world.

The Vietnamese people will win.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors will be defeated.

Question: *In the face of documentary evidence and eyewitness reports from foreign witnesses including American journalists, Washington continues to claim that U.S. aircraft have been striking only at military targets and not at civilian targets in North Vietnam. What are your views on this subject?*

Answer: The Democratic Republic of Vietnam is an independent and sovereign country and the U.S. imperialists have absolutely no right to violate this independence and sovereignty. U.S. bombing of any point of her territory, whether a military or a civilian target, is a blatant act of aggression and an unpardonable crime. It is an undeniable fact that civilian targets in North Vietnam have been attacked. The peoples of the world including large sections of the American people are strongly protesting against the American imperialists' savage acts of aggression.

The U.S. imperialists must stop definitively and unconditionally the bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Question: *The United States has spoken of the need for "dialogue" or "contact" between itself and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Would you comment on this statement?*

Answer: The United States has made such statements but in its deeds, it has shown the utmost obduracy and perfidy, and continues the "escalation", stepping up and expanding the aggressive war. If it really wants talks, it must first halt unconditionally the bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. It is only after the unconditional cessation of U.S. bombing and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam that there could be talks between the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the United States.

The 4-point stand and the correct attitude of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam enjoy, we are sure, ever stronger approval and support from all peace and justice-loving peoples and governments in the world. If the United States refuses to listen to reason, it will further unmask itself as an odious aggressor. The Vietnamese people are determined to fight until total victory to defend the North, liberate the South, achieve the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland, and contribute to the maintenance of peace in this area and in the world.

"The Vietnamese people...

(Continued from page 3)

"What we have seen and heard in North Vietnam has led us to the firm conviction that the bombing of that sovereign country by the United States is a violation of international law under the Geneva Agreements of 1954 and the United Nations Charter. It constitutes an unjustifiable attack of a great power upon a small nation. The suffering it inflicts on the children, women, aged and the general population of North Vietnam is savage, inhuman and utterly immoral. Furthermore, we fail to see that it has any military justification. On the contrary it serves to unify and rally the population to greater efforts to terrorize them into submission".

After demanding that the U.S. forthwith, completely and unconditionally cease its bombing attacks on North Vietnam and stating that no "quid pro quo can reasonably be asked or given", the statement went on:

"... It is our earnest prayer that the American people may recognize that this policy is unworthy of them and injurious to their interests. We also pray that other nations may also dissociate themselves from this bombing and we pledge to do our utmost to contribute to this end.

"... We have every reason to think that the Government and people of North Vietnam have an iron determination to fight for their independence and the eventual reunification of their country. We do not believe that after decades and men centuries of successful struggle against oppression, they can be beaten into surrender or submission by any foreign power..."

Replying to a journalist's question, A.J. Muste recalled a sentence in statement which said that any initiative toward a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam problem must come from the U.S. and must be materialized by acts and not by mere words. *"The U.S. cannot put the blame for the continuation of the war on North Vietnam or on the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation"*, he pointed out.

He said *"it is tragic that some people still support the view that North Vietnam is committing aggression against their own compatriots in the South"*.

Asked about Cardinal Spellman's bellicose statements on the Vietnam problem, A.J. Muste said: *"The majority of people in the United States do not agree with Spellman. Now many other cardinals in the U.S. have the right to speak like Spellman, but they too do not agree with him"*.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

Saigon puppet...

(Continued from page 1)

faithful to Co had been apprehended or closely watched. Thieu and Ky had to take those measures for fear of Co returning from Taiwan — where he was on a "visit" mission — to stage a coup against them.

This was another outburst in the political crisis — now becoming chronic — of the Saigon regime. Remarkable is the fact that it followed the October 1966 crisis when several ministers of Ky's cabinet resigned. It took place at the same time as the emergence of opposition from the civilians' group in the "Constituent Assembly" to the Thieu-Ky clique's dictatorship and police state.

The sacking of Co once again shed a strong light on the bitter internal conflict within the ruling military junta whose members have been contending with one another for leadership. Clearly, since a number of generals — U.S. agents — joined in league to topple Diem-Nhu, as a result of mutual and successive ousters only two of the so-called "National Leadership Committee" men remain: Nguyen Van Thieu and Pham Xuan Chieu. All the other members have been taken into custody, kept under surveillance or deported abroad. As for the "National Leadership Committee" set up by Thieu and Ky after overthrowing Phan Huy Quat's cabinet, out of the twenty generals it initially comprised, there now remain just nine. Thus, one could foresee the inevitably increasing bitterness of the internal struggle for power. Indeed, if in March 1966 in order to oust Nguyen Chanh Thi from the First Army Corps Command, the Thieu-Ky-Co trio was compelled to bear the brunt of a subsequent political crisis, the settlement of which entailed an armed show-down, this time although the Thieu-Ky clique fired Co in an apparently milder way, the move cannot but deepen the existing contradictions. In spite of their collusion aimed at eliminating the opposition, Thieu and Ky are secretly countering or restraining one another's efforts to enlist seperate support to monopolize power. Thieu formally opposed Ky's cabinet reshuffle in November last year, said *UPI* on November 18. Now the two ruling military junta had to face so many quarrelling factions and such isolation.

The overthrow of Co just as the said reshuffle and the ensuing disturbance in the ranks of the commanders of the puppet army, also spelt out the increasing antagonism between the civilian and military clans. The recent resignation of several ministers which triggered off a government crisis, and the present organized resistance by a number of deputies in the "Constituent Assembly", according to western sources, were wire-pulled from behind the scenes by Nguyen Huu Co. Something easy to understand, for Co needed the backing of certain political force to counter his foes. The antagonism is so sharp that the Thieu-Ky clique has had to use its men to murder such opposition leaders in the "Constituent Assembly" as Tran Van Van and Phan Huy Quat, *AP* reported on January 25 that many "civilians" among the opposition felt indignant at the removal of Co. To all intents and purposes, firing Co, the Thieu-Ky junta slung a stone at a hornets' nest.

It is common knowledge that among the leaders of the aggressive war machine in Saigon themselves, between Lodge and Westmoreland and their respective supporters, in face of the setbacks sustained by the U.S. expeditionary force, there has been a divided opinion on the Vietnam war, as to which method to use to carry on aggression, even about how to use their agents and the Saigon army and administration for this purpose. These differences are also reflected in the internal strife within the puppet army and administration and lead to the alignment of various factions in the American missions in Saigon with their counterparts in the South Vietnam ruling military junta. *UPI* said on January 25 that the ouster of Co had been informally agreed by U.S. officials. According to the same source, Lodge and members of U.S. missions assured Thieu and Ky they would have "no reaction".

The Thieu-Ky clique stated that Co had been dismissed on corruption charges. Obviously, however, the Saigon military leaders toppled one another not only for the privilege of serving the Washington administration, but also because, confronted with the increasing deadlock met by the Americans in their war of aggression, they cannot have differing views. And this is serious enough to speed up the collapse of the puppet regime. The Thieu-Ky clique has recently relieved Dang Van Quang of his military function for many reasons, one of which being that Quang had expressed disapproval of the introduction of American troops into the 4th Army Corps under his command.

The present turmoil is far from being the final act of a play on the shaky Saigon stage. Nevertheless, one thing is clear: since masses of U.S. troops have been sent to South Vietnam and the air war of destruction unleashed against North Vietnam, Washington believes that the presence of the G.I.'s and the roaring of U.S. jets will revivify the moribund Saigon army and administration, but things have been so far contrary to their expectation. While internal wrangles have been messily dragging on, apart from hundreds of thousands of puppet troops put out of action on the battlefields, desertion from the puppet army has never ceased increasing. If throughout 1965 there were 113,462 deserters, in 1966 this figure rose already to 109,458 in late Nov. (11 months). Disclosing this, *UPI* admitted that no less than one fourth defected to the N.L.F. on the day the Americans took the war machine in hand and shifted the bulk of the quisling army to auxiliary duties, a sizable number of native generals have opposed the move, among them, and in a formal way, general Phan Trong Chinh of the 25th Division. Said the *Washington Post* of December 12: Chinh is supported by several regular army division commanders.

THE VOICE OF VIETNAM

RADIO

TRANSMISSIONS IN ENGLISH

Hanoi time	G.M.T.	Meter bands	Frequencies
6.00— 6.30	23.00—23.30	25, 31, 240	11.840, 9.489, 1.240kc/s
17.00—17.30	10.00—10.30	25, 31, 240	11.760, 9.760, 1.240kc/s
20.00—20.30	13.00—13.30	25, 31, 240	11.760, 9.760, 1.240kc/s
22.30—23.00	15.30—16.00	25, 32, 240	11.760, 9.760, 1.240kc/s

GAP OF CONFIDENCE

Commentary of the **Quan Doi Nhan Dan** *(People's Army), January 20, 1967*

JOHNSON'S State of the Union message has plunged the United States in a pessimistic mood and touched off new waves of protest. Although Johnson deliberately avoided mentioning the present situation of the American society in all its aspects, his message portrayed a really dark picture of present-day America when he dealt with the tasks ahead of his administration.

Johnson told the American people a grim truth when he said that there are now no less than 3 million Americans (or more than 12 per cent of the population) who must live on "social security payments" that the present minimum payment is below subsistence level, that many American Indians and migratory farm workers are "forgotten in our midst". Johnson also admitted that the life of the American people was faced with weighty problems, such as "massive power failures" and the lack of "safety in the pipelines that are natural gas across America", that medicare was needed for "permanently and totally disabled Americans"... Pointing to a still more poignant aspect of the American society, Johnson said that the problem of crime, and even murder was aggravating, the number of juvenile delinquents was growing, law was not respected and order not maintained.

The ordinary Americans while wondering where the "number one leader" of the United States is taking them to suddenly feel that Johnson's hand is thrust into their pockets to rob them of more of their already meagre income as a result of price rise and inflation. They shudder at the thought that some day a draft card or a death notification may be brought to them, which means a temporary or definitive loss of their husbands, brothers, sons or any other of their dear ones who have been drafted into the dirty war in Vietnam or got killed there. They cannot have quiet nights since the "Vietnam nightmare" is haunting them day and hourly, shattering their most beautiful and also most modest dreams.

The Johnson administration is daily facing ever stronger and deeper and at times very bitter opposition from the American people of all strata. Western opinion of late spoke much about a prominent phenomenon in the United States which it called a "gap of confidence" in Johnson and company, and the gap is widening. The forces opposing the dirty war in Vietnam are growing rapidly and are taking a more and more clear-cut and resolute attitude. It is exactly for this reason that the American press has concluded that the war in Vietnam is the most unpopular war ever conducted by the United States.

This Johnson could not leave out in his message. He deplored that many Americans thought they should "lay down the burdens", while many others wanted "to get it over with". It transpires from the press that the American people consider this war not their war. From them Johnson has extorted 24 billion dollars every year—and each dollar is in fact soaked with the sweat and tears of the American labour — to throw into the bottomless pit of the aggressive war in Vietnam. Johnson has also thrown into it more than 100,000 young American lives who were useless sacrificed for an unjust cause. Yet in his message, Johnson cynically called for more sacrifices from the American people. He said, "we face more cost, more loss and more agony". Thus in defiance of the wave of protest of the American people, Johnson has brazenly launched a new, direct attack on them, with a view to satisfying the rapacious aggressive ambition of the U.S. financiers in an attempt to save their hopeless situation in Vietnam.

However, the American people have seen more and more clearly the deceitful nature of Johnson and his clique. In watching the war escalation coupled with the statements by Johnson and his associates during the past two years, the public in America has come to the conclusion that before taking a new "escalation" step, the United States would blare out the threat to strike at such and such area or target in North Vietnam in order to threaten public opinion and ward off moral censure by the public. Then, in one way or another, the U.S. ruling circles would make a denial just to deny nothing in an attempt to mislead public opinion and make a gain by surprise. After ordering the air strike, Johnson and his clique would deny that the U.S. had made any escalation or attacked any civilian target, raise a new ballyhoo about the U.S. "sincere desire for peace talks" and shift the responsibility on "the other side" to wash themselves off the crimes. This conclusion has been unequivocally reached up by the escalation attacks of the U.S. air force against Hanoi and Haiphong on June 29, 1966 and against areas within and without Hanoi in December 1966. It has been substantiated by irrefutable evidence and many eyewitnesses, including some Americans and other Westerners who were then in Hanoi — and thus public opinion has been given wide publicity in the world — that U.S. aircraft had dropped bombs and fired rockets on many populous quarters inside and outside the capital city. Yet, going beyond the limit of cynism, the U.S. Defence Department kept denying and denying. There really can be no greater scorn for public opinion in the United Sates and the world! The American press itself has pointed out that in view of such cynical mystification, the American people have every reason to mistrust all that is said by the U.S. government and Johnson. From Washington, French journalist Jacques Amalric wrote in an article in *Le Monde* on Jan. 14, 1967:

"In Washington and San Francisco, in Boston and Middlewest, this gap (of confidence) is only too real. Everywhere it is accompanied by a wave of disrespect for the chief executive, which would be something very abnormal in France but which takes on quite a different significance in the American climate.

Almost unwillingly, it (the gap of confidence) represents the beginning of an extremely new phenomenon in the U.S.: the systematic mistrust of a people in their leaders who have been many times caught in the act of lying".

Eminent American scientist Linus Pauling wrote in *Le Nouvel Observateur*: "Johnson has become a veritable dictator and he lies whenever he sees it fit".

The crisis of confidence which is spreading among the American people stems not only from the failures and cynical deceptions of Johnson and his clique in their war escalation in Vietnam. It is also stimulated by the constantly declining position and ever more apparent isolation of the U.S. in the international arena. Many allies of the U.S. have come out openly against its aggressive policy, many neutral countries have denounced its heinous crimes. At the United Nations, though masterminded by the U.S., the prestige of the U.S. has sunk to its lowest. Many Americans are wondering why the U.S. has drawn so heavy fire from its allies, why more and more of the latter are dissociating themselves from its policy, why the U.S. President was protested, jeered and booed and pelted with tomatoes and addle eggs everywhere he went. By inference, they know that Johnson is leading the United States onto the path of most dangerous war adventures and most odious crimes ever pursued by a president in American history.

The new flare-up of public protest against the U.S. crimes and deception is a logical development in accordance with an ethical law. That is the law of the inevitable triumph of truth over fallacy, of justice over unjust aggressive wars. And time and truth are proceeding with steady steps, persuading more and more conscience, shattering the smoke-screen of deceit and all dissimulation and thwarting all psychological warfare methods of the U.S. ruling circles.

The shining just cause of the Vietnamese people and their fight against U.S. aggression for national salvation, together with their ever greater victories, has helped the vast majority of the American people to understand the essence of the Vietnam problem.

The confidence gap in the United States is aggravating the fundamental political weakness of the Johnson clique.

It is this gap that triggers off the multiplying more and more resolute acts of protest of broad masses of the American people, from workers, farmers, students, intellectuals, religious people to armymen and even a section of the administration who, to various degees, are demanding a change in the government policy, withdrawal of the American troops, cessation of the war of destruction against the D.R.V. and all acts of brutality which are staining the honour of America, and an end to the policy of deceiving the public and hiding the truth from it. The meetings and demonstrations against the war in Vietnam have drawn thousands and tens of thousands of Americans. The draft resisting movement is spreading in the universities. The draft card burning, draft dodge and anti-war movement is gaining an unprecedented momentum. In spite of Johnson's big efforts to make the war of aggression in Vietnam appear as an affair of the entire "free world", it remains in the eyes of most people an American war, no more and no less. Worse still many Americans do not consider it their affair but a war of Johnson. Johnson and his clique are terribly afraid of this confidence gap which is closely associated with their mistakes and failures in the Vietnam problem. Johnson is fearing for his precarious position. He is awkwardly fumbling with the piling difficulties in the rear while desperately prosecuting a losing war in the front. He also fears that through the Vietnam issue the American people will see more and more of the other aspects of the dismal truth concerning the overall domestic and foreign policy of the U.S. administration, as well as the nature of the social system of the United States itself. This will inevitably lead to incalculable disastrous consequences.

Brilliant Victories...

(Continued from page 8)

the Tra Noc and Binh Thuy airfields in Can tho. The Saigon-Cholon armed forces and people wiped out one enemy troops company, stuck hard at a series of enemy posts, depleted or destroyed 3 enemy positions and the 4 au Nghia military sub-sector. In Quang Tri and Thua Thien, our fighters repeatedly attacked the enemy and in the first 20 days of January put more than 500 U.S. and puppet troops out of action. The armed forces and people in Quang Nam virtually wiped out one puppet company at Viet An, put 2 U.S. marines companies out of action, and on January 26 last, virtually wiped out a U.S. marine battalion at An Hoa. In Quang Ngai, the local armed forces and people completely destroyed 2 companies of Pak Jung Hi mercenary troops at An Diem. In the Western High Plateaux, the L.A.F. four times attacked the U.S. airfield and base camp at Pleiku, (the actual camp on Jan. 7 alone resulted in 60 aircraft being destroyed, 255 Yankees wiped out and 5 million litres of petrol burnt). In Binh Thuan, the L.A.F. annihilated one enemy company at Hoa Da. Developments on various battlefields showed that the South Vietnamese armed forces and people were holding the initiative firmly, attacking the enemy relentlessly, and winning victory after victory. Following their defeats in Tay Ninh, the U.S. aggressors are finding themselves more and more on the defensive and are spread thin seriously.

All 4 major operations they launched since the beginning of the dry season have come a dropper. The total bankruptcy of their second dry-season offensive plan is a foregone conclusion.

BASIC FAILURE...

(Continued from page 1)

This is a form, but only one form, of general mobilisation in North Vietnam... It has been given a new impetus since President Ho Chi Minh's appeal of July 17, 1966.

Thus, bomb after bomb, the Americans are building the Vietnamese people unity. Hanoi has not had to "beat up" the people against the adversary. The leaders, who work selflessly, each doing the job of ten, need only to tell them: "Look at the sky..."

Jacques Decorney
Le Monde, Dec. 18, 1966

"IT is easy to imagine the Air Force strategists inspecting a map and concurring that Hanoi's southward supply services can be interdicted by a few easily placed bombs.

"...The basic flaw in the bombing policy, simply from a military viewpoint, would seem to be its failure to take into account the nature of the country and the people to which it is being applied..."

H.E. Salisbury
The New York Times
Dec. 28, 1966

"THESE people (North Vietnamese-Ed.) strike me as being very tough, very hardy, very independent and very courageous.

"They say, and I rather believe them, that you cannot beat them, to be more operable, that they can't be beaten into submission.

"They would rather go back to the mangrove and the mountains and fight a guerrilla war for 20 years against the United States as they did against the French".

H.E. Salisbury
in an interview with
Radio Hongkong
AFP, Jan. 3, 1967

PRESIDENT Ho Chi Minh said the people of North Vietnam cherished peace, but they would never surrender their independence to purchase peace for this country.

"...The central policy of his government in the conflict with the Americans was based on a resolution against any intimidation of the independence and freedom of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

"The words, 'independence and freedom' are words you hear often in Hanoi and in the countryside of North Vietnam. Indeed, these words are a kind of motto among the people."

Bill Baggs
AP Jan. 12, 1967

FAILURE OF OPERATION CEDAR FALLS:

— 2,500 American aggressors, 54 New Zealand mercenaries and 31 puppet troops put out of action;

— 149 military vehicles (including 134 M-41 tanks and M-113 and M-118 armoured cars) destroyed or damaged, 2 tanks seized;

— 28 aircraft of various types shot down or damaged.

ACCORDING to *L.P.A.*, on January 2, the Yankees launched a "probe operation" in the Ben Suc and Ben Cat districts (Thu Dau Mot province) and Cu Chi district (Gia Dinh province).

The enemy had to withdraw from many places after three days of "probing" and after being intercepted and wiped out by the guerillas on Jan. 2. Over 100 G.I.'s were killed or wounded in Ben Tranh some 10km northwest of Ben Suc. 150 were wiped out in a place north of Ben Cat.

After the failure of this "probe" operation from Jan. 5 to 7, the U.S. launched air raids (even by B.52s) and shelled the area, causing many casualties to the population chiefly in Ben Suc and Cu Chi districts. The enemy attacked the 3 districts in 3 columns.

The columns which raided Ben Cat and Ben Suc districts were continually harassed by the L.A.F. According to still incomplete reports, within a fortnight, the local L.A.F. and people killed or wounded 2,500 U.S. troops, 54 New Zealand mercenaries and 31 puppet troops, shot down or damaged 28 planes of various types, destroyed or heavily damaged 149 military vehicles including 134 tanks and armoured cars and seized 2 tanks.

Most remarkable were the battles fought from Jan. 9 to 12 in the two villages 9km northwest of Ben Cat in which the L.A.F. demolished 34 tanks and M.113 and M.118 armoured cars and wiped out their crews. In the battles of Ben Suc and Dau Tieng airfields, in three days ending January 12, 235 G.I.'s were wiped out and 15 G.M.C. trucks destroyed.

Meanwhile, in Cu Chi district the aggressors also met with stiff resistance and suffered heavy losses: Over 300 Yanks were killed or wounded; 62 tanks and armoured cars were destroyed or damaged; 9 aircraft were knocked down. The regional L.A.F. in Trung An village also shot down 8 U.S. planes and wiped out more than 100 G.I.s on January 8.

Operation *Cedar Falls* was the second major setback of the U.S. imperialists in their 1966-1967 dry season counter-offensive on the East Nam Bo battlefield after the failure of Operation *Attleboro* in Tay Ninh province.

L.A.F. ATTACK PHU LOI AIRFIELD (THU DAU MOT PROVINCE) JAN. 28

IMMEDIATELY after the ending of Operation *Cedar Falls*, the L.A.F. on the night of Jan. 26, hammered at the C.P. of a brigade of U.S. 1st Infantry Division in Phu Loi.

The L.A.F. shelled the airfield, barracks and artillery ground, setting afire the whole Phu Loi airbase.

After 30 minutes' fighting, the L.A.F. killed and wounded 165 U.S. aggressors and destroyed or heavily damaged 20 helicopters.

This is the fourth attack on this airfield since the beginning of 1966 (the previous attacks took place on the nights of Jan. 30, Feb. 24 and May 25, 1966), bringing to 109 the total of aircraft destroyed or damaged and putting out of action 597 G.I.'s.

SAIGON-GIA DINH
L.A.F. VICTORIES in Long Tau Channel (Linking Saigon to the Sea)

Aug. 23, 1966: The 10,000-ton cargo boat *Baton Rouge Victory* sunk.

Aug. 28: A minesweeper sunk.

Aug. 29: A minesweeper sunk.

Sept. 22: A minesweeper heavily damaged, its engine-room destroyed, many enemy casualties.

Oct. 2: An L.C.T. with over 100 G.I.s and puppet troops on board sunk.

Oct. 5: An L.C.T. loaded with G.I.s and puppet troops operating in Sat forest sunk.

Oct. 7: An L.C.T. sunk, another heavily damaged; great enemy losses.

Nov. 1: A minesweeper sunk, nearly all G.I.s on board wiped out.

Jan. 9, 1967: 2 minesweepers and 2 cargo-boats destroyed or damaged.

Jan. 23: 2 war vessels (a minesweeper) destroyed in ambushes; many G.I.s killed, a helicopter sent to their rescue downed.

Jan. 24: 2 minesweepers intercepted by the L.A.F.: heavy enemy losses.

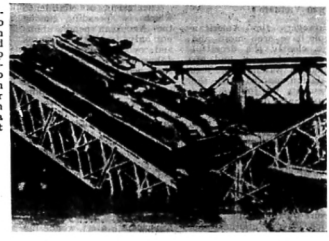
Jan. 25: A minesweeper sunk.

Jan. 26: 2 battles in the same place: a patrol-boat and a minesweeper destroyed.

Jan. 30: 2 minesweepers attacked.

Thu Dau Mot and Gia Dinh SCORE BRILLIANT VICTORIES

NEW Year victories in South Vietnam are blossoming like spring flowers. With elation, we have just received news about the victories won by the armed forces and people of Ben Tre in smashing Operation *Deckhouse V* launched by 4,000 U.S. marines of whom 1,400 were wiped out. Now from Thu Dau Mot of terrorism and massacre, and even razed to the ground Ben Suc town and many villages and hamlets. With massive troop deployment and violent attacks, their objective was to regroup the population, in implementation of their "pacification" program aimed at establishing a no-man's land to protect their defence perimeter North of Saigon which has been subjected to constant attacks. But, just as in Tay Ninh and Ben Tre, they again sustained heavy defeats. The Thu Dau Mot - Gia Dinh armed forces and people fought very courageously, closed in upon the raiders, beat them everywhere, completely foiled their Operation and shattered their hopes to the ground.



THE victories won by the Thu Dau Mot - Gia Dinh armed forces and people are highly significant. Since with 30,000 troops and a huge quantity of hardware and with methods of an unprecedented brutality, the U.S. aggressors proved powerless in a small area next door to Saigon, how can they expect to pacify the Mekong Delta with its large population and huge resources? The big failure of their biggest ever operation further brings into relief the miraculous strength of people's war and the extraordinary growth of the armed forces and people in these 2 provinces.

Essentially, this operation was a defensive move. It demonstrated U.S. failures, military and political, on this battlefield. Its bankruptcy further proved that the aggressors could never regain the initiative, even in a small area very close to their big bases.

While the aggressors were undertaking this operation, they were badly battered on all battlefields. The armed forces and people in the Nam Bo delta have not only smashed Operation *Deckhouse V* in Thanh Phu: but they have also wiped out at about the same time 3 whole battalions of puppet regulars in Tra Vinh, Long An and Ben Tre, sunk or damaged a dozen enemy mine-sweepers, patrol boats and military freighters on the Long Tau and Hau Giang rivers, and attacked

(*Continued page 7*)

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An American tank is bogged down in a ricefield at Ben Cat, the bridge being blown up by the L.A.F. on Jan. 10, 1967 during operation Cedar Falls.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

THE U.S. AND ITS HENCHMEN MUST IMPLEMENT THE SOUTH VIETNAM N.F.L. TRUCE ORDER

IT is public knowledge that on November 25, 1966, the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation ordered its armed forces to suspend military attacks on Christmas and New Year Day. Under the pressure of public opinion, Washington and its Saigon lackeys had to accept the truce but in fact did their best to sabotage it.

According to *LPA*, official mouthpiece of the N.F.L., during these two festivals, the U.S. and puppet troops committed violations of the truce order on all battlefields.

On Jan. 1, 1967 the N.F.L. ordered a 7-day truce from 6 hours, Indo-China time (or 7 hours Saigon time) on Feb. 8, to 6 hours Indochina time (or 7 hours Saigon time) on Feb. 15, to enable the population and namely the soldiers and personnel of the puppet army and administration to move freely during the Lunar New Year Day which is the biggest traditional festival of the Vietnamese people. The U.S. and Thieu-Ky clique slanderously charged the N. F. L. with violations of the Christmas and New Year Day truce and declared that they would observe the coming truce for 4 days only.

LPA on Jan. 24, 1967 reaffirmed in a statement the N.F.L.'s order for suspension of military attacks for 7 days on the Lunar New Year Festival. It also called on the South Vietnam population, particularly the soldiers and personnel of the puppet army and administration to demand that the U.S. and its henchmen implement the 7-day truce. The statement further called on the people and the Liberation Armed Forces to be vigilant and ready to mete out due punishment to the saboteurs of the truce order.